Easiest Way Across The Bay

New Pass will aid transbay riders
MTC's stand on fares Draws counter-views

A metropolitan transportation Commission move to "postulate" a fare structure for AC Transit and two other Bay Area public transit systems drew criticism at an MTC session and an AC Transit board meeting, both on February 27.

General Manager Robert E. Nisbet told MTC members at a morning meeting that AC Transit was "disappointed" in a resolution which put MTC in a position of determining the fares that must be charged by AC Transit, BART and San Francisco Municipal Railway.

Fare reviews

Nisbet said it was the intention of each of the three systems to review fares and at the "appropriate time" institute fare increases by action of the governing bodies of the individual systems. AC Transit Board member Michael H. Fajans, representing Berkeley and Oakland, told the MTC he believed any consideration of a fare increase should be made only after hearing from public transit users. He contended that the MTC resolution to mandate fares charged by AC Transit, BART and San Francisco MUNI was "beyond the purview" of MTC and "against stated policy".

Different perspectives

Fajans also expressed concern over charging equal fares for equal distances traveled on different transit systems. "Equal trip lengths are not a valid criterion" in establishing equal fares, he said, pointing out a BART rail trip and an AC Transit bus trip of equal distance should be viewed in different perspectives.

Nisbet stated the hastily adopted MTC resolution "would appear to preempt" a current cooperative Transit Finance Report being prepared by individual operators and the MTC.

In a report later in the day to the AC Transit Board of Directors, Nisbet continued to express his opposition to the resolution which would have operators "adopting a uniform fare structure, which would not take into account individual system differences."

Policy boards

"Setting of fares is a responsibility of the transit policy boards," Nisbet said. "We do not consider it necessary or appropriate for MTC to use its responsibility for allocating certain funds as a means for leveraging the development of internal transit policies, and in particular, one as sensitive to the public served by a transit operator, as fares."

Under the MTC resolution, BART, AC Transit and MUNI have until June 16 to adopt a "uniform and coordinated" fare policy, or MTC will "postulate a uniform fare structure for the three operators for the purpose of allocation of funds."

March sees Transbay Pass debut

Transbay bus riders will enjoy the convenience of a Monthly Pass beginning March 1.

Like the Local Monthly Pass introduced to East Bay riders last year, the new Transbay Pass eliminates the need to fumble for correct change or to handle transfers or tickets. The Pass user simply shows the card to the driver for an unlimited number of transbay trips to and from specific geographic zones during the month of validity.

Transbay Passes will be priced at four levels — with the Zone number clearly marked on the face — ranging from $30 for a Zone 1 pass to $50 for a Zone 4 card. In each case, the Pass is priced at about the average a regular commuter would pay for 20 round-trips to and from each zone; and additional use for local trips on weekends or in the evening would be essentially "free."

The Transbay Monthly Pass also will be honored for unlimited rides during the effective month on local and intercity express bus lines throughout the urban East Bay (west of the hills) and in Fremont and Newark during the effective month. It will not be good on BART express or on contract services in central and eastern Contra Costa County.

The Passes will be on sale in the Ticket Office of the Transbay Transit Terminal in San Francisco and at AC Transit's Customer Services Center in the lobby of 508-16th St., downtown Oakland. Pre-addressed mail order envelopes also are available from drivers.

Two new local lines added To aid Lafayette patrons Of Country Coach service

Country Coach transit service is coming to new areas of Lafayette in mid-March with the addition of two new lines.

On Monday, March 17, Line 353 buses begin operating between BART/Lafayette and St. Mary's College via St. Mary's Road. Line 353 buses will operate between the hours of 6:30 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Line 355/355A buses start operating March 17 on Mt. Diablo Blvd. between Pleasant Hill Road and Acalanes Road, with stops in both directions at BART/Lafayette. Line 355 service will operate at 45-minute intervals from about 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

THE COVER — The first Transbay Pass, valid during March, went on sale February 21. It's an easy to use passport for a month's bus trips — day, evening, or week-end for commuting, shopping, or recreation. The $30 to $50 cost depends on distance of specific zones from San Francisco, but The Pass also buys riders on local and inter-city express buses in the East Bay region west of the hills.
New route map/guide to help patrons in using buses

A new pocket-size route map and guide, which includes all basic (all-day) bus routes, plus some important commuter-hour lines serving the communities of the urban East Bay, is now available for the asking.

This extensive network of basic bus routes is colorfully depicted over a subdued background that shows every street in every community between San Pablo in the north and Hayward in the south. The various types of bus service—local, intercity express and transbay—are differentiated by color-coded lines. And the background includes street and landmark information in assist bus riders in locating themselves and their destinations.

On its other side, the basic route guide depicts in much greater detail the more complicated bus routing in downtown Oakland and Berkeley.

Also included is ample “How to use...” information—fares, transfers, hours of operation, intervals between buses, and guides to reading bus signs.

This new route map is available at the Customer Services Center in the lobby of 508 - 16th Street in downtown Oakland. Interested individuals may also telephone Transit Information to obtain a route guide by mail.

Director is appointee

Roy Nakadegawa, vice president of the Board of Directors, has been appointed a member of the California State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. The appointment was made by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Nakadegawa will meet monthly with the State Board, which establishes standards and monitors performance of engineers and land surveyors.

Nakadegawa is a civil engineer for the City of Richmond. A resident of Berkeley, he was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1972, and currently is serving his second term as vice president of the policy-making body for the System.

Panels garner public input

REPRESENTATIVE sampling of Fremont and Newark residents was surveyed in January to determine individual transportation needs and awareness of currently available transportation options. This group was one of twelve focus group sessions held throughout the Bay Area (including two in the AC Transit service area) to assess public awareness and understanding of public transportation. The survey is being conducted by the Regional Transportation Association, of which AC Transit is an active participant, as a prelude to a joint effort to improve understanding and promote greater use of mass transit.

Board schedules public hearing

The Board of Directors will convene a public hearing March 26 at 4 p.m. to provide a forum for comment on the District’s application for a federal capital improvement grant. The hearing will be held in the third-floor board room of AC Transit headquarters, 508 - 16th Street, Oakland.

Copes receives first 30-year safety award

RECORD ACHIEVEMENT — Robert L. Copes, driver at Seminary Division, displays the framed certificate awarded him by General Manager Robert E. Nubet for reaching the 30-year safe-driving mark. This record translates into more than a million miles traveled and two million passengers served. Copes is not only the first AC Transit driver to compile such a record, but is the first in the Bay Area to reach the three-decade safety milestone. He was honored during a February 1 ceremony at the division.

TIPS ON BENEFITS—Social Security representative Diane Estrada gives AC Transit Retirees Club President Lou Bailey information on benefits available to AC Transit pensioners. Ms. Estrada’s appearance at the Retirees Club this month was part of a series of informational programs the group offers throughout the year. The club meets the third Tuesday of each month and is open to all AC Transit and Key System retirees and their spouses.

Three die who began long transit careers with Key System

Three deaths have been reported from the rolls of retirees:

Paul C. Coleman, 74, a retiree from the ranks of drivers since 1967, died January 30 in San Leandro. Though credited with 25 years of service at retirement, Coleman actually had an earlier period of employment with Key System from 1925 to 1928. He signed on again as a driver in 1942, and at his retirement was attached to Seminary Division.

Coleman is survived by his widow, Grace, and two children, Richard Coleman and Beverly Balestri.

James V. Molinari, 93, who served as a rail maintenance mechanic with AC Transit’s predecessor organization prior to retirement in 1957, died February 17 in Oakland. His transit service, spanning 40 years, began in 1917. He is survived by his widow, Celestina.

Fred Trembath, 75, died February 7 in Oakland. He was a driver at Seminary Division before retirement in 1966 after 20 years of service. He is survived by his widow, Stella.
Three former Drivers, Dispatchers promoted To training positions

Three appointments have been announced by Training Department.

Doyle Dewberry, Carl Kissinger, and Stacey Anderson have assumed duties as Training Instructor after serving periods of time as Temporary Instructor.

Dewberry joined AC Transit in 1963 as a driver at Richmond Division, but left in 1967, returning to the ranks of drivers in 1974. He subsequently trained and served as a dispatcher before joining Training.

An ordained Baptist minister, Dewberry continues to serve the church by acting as interim pastor for area congregations. He and wife Neita, who live in Alameda, have three grown children and four grandchildren.

Carl Kissinger served more than 13 years as a driver at Seminary Division before joining Training. He and wife Sharon live in Dublin with their children, Wendy, 17, and David, 16.

Leisure time

In his leisure time, Kissinger enjoys restoring vintage cars. His prize possession: a Model-A Ford which he bought for $300 and transformed to a splendor befitting its current estimated value of $12,000.

Stacey "Andy" Anderson assumes his new post after being a Richmond Division driver, dispatcher, and transportation supervisor. His first service, 1965 to 1968, was followed by a period during which he was employed as a YMCA program director and as a Boy Scouts administrator. He re-joined AC Transit in 1972.

Anderson's family includes wife Carolyn and daughters Lisa, 16, and Tami, 8. An unusual brand of spare-time volunteer work he enjoys is helping organize college fraternities — an interest which stems from his student days at Stillman College in Alabama.

Director takes new office

AC Transit Director William J. Bettencourt has been appointed to the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Bettencourt's appointment follows many years of civic service and community involvement. He will help guide policy for the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce's more than 1,000 members.

Bettencourt is a past chairman and current member of the San Leandro City Development Committee and serves on the city's Industrial Zoning Study Committee.

Annual Report available

The statistics shown above are from AC Transit's current Annual Report. Copies of this document may be obtained by contacting the Marketing Department, either by phone — (415) 654-7878 — or by mail. Address mail requests to 508-16th Street, Oakland, California, 94612.
At an adjourned regular meeting January 23, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized participation in three sessions of the Bay Area Urban Transit Institute during 1980, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager and Board President to attend APTA Management Seminar in Florida February 17-21, on motion of Director McDonnell.
- Adopted resolution authorizing General Manager to file application for a capital improvement grant under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, and scheduled a public hearing on the matter for March 26, 1980 at 4 p.m., on motions of Director Holmes. (See story, Pg. 4)
- Established annual compensation for the District’s Legislative Representative, on motion of Director Fajans.
- Adopted job description for the position of Attorney for the District, on motion of Director Holmes.

At a regular meeting February 13, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized General Manager to join Regional Transit Association in procurement of brake drums, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
- Authorized Board to attend APTA Western Conference in Monterey April 12-17, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized extension of contract with Arthur Young and Company to conduct District audit for Fiscal Year 1979-80, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized extension of service in Lafayette beginning March 17, on motion of Director Fajans. (See story, Pg. 3)
- Authorized General Manager to exercise purchase option for property now occupied by Division 6 and negotiate for adjacent parcel for off-street parking use on motion of Director Fajans.
- Authorized General Manager to seek proposals for architectural and engineering services in conjunction with the District’s facilities improvement program, on motion of Director Fajans.
- Authorized conversion of off-peak Dial-A-Ride service to fixed route service in Special Transit District No. 2, with accompanying system re-design and alternative transportation arrangements for those elderly/handicapped unable to use fixed-route service, on motion of Director Fajans.
- Established salary range for Attorney for the District and appointed Richard W. Meier to the post, on motions of Director Holmes.